

SMOKE SIGNALS

Volume 43/Number 1 January 2011



Administration's Message

Dear Residents:

As you read this newsletter, the 2010 holiday season is behind us. I hope that everyone had a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! I wish you all the best in 2011. Looking back one year, we re-call that our Nation was still spinning its wheels as our economy was trying to get back on track. The economic downturn has affected our Village and will continue to do so for some time, but I am glad to report that it has not been as severe as in other communities. Accordingly, the VBT and I will keep a watchful eye to the future. As we look to the New Year, we all have reason to feel optimistic about our personal well-being and the future in Indian Head Park. Our Village continues to move forward and deal with the issues facing us. We will be receiving funds for a few Village projects from the State and will be placing more Village information on our website. Our progress is due to the diligence of the members of your **Village Board of Trustees** and the hard work of our Village staff in the **Administrative, Public Works and Police** Departments.

We are all grateful for the efforts of your Village team, including **Trustees Debbie Anselmo, Brian Bailey, Anne Bermier, Carol Coleman, Norm Schnaufer, and Matt Walsh; Village Clerk Joe Consolo; Village Administrator/Police Chief Frank Alonzo, Jr.; Village Attorney Rich Ramello of Storino, Ramello & Durkin; Village Prosecutor Tom Brescia; Treasurer Steve Busa; and Village Engineer Dave Vandervelde of Christopher E. Burke Engineering** on your behalf. Together, we work diligently to keep our Village operating and progressing. In addition, I personally appreciate the efforts of all of our Village volunteers who work in various capacities in serving our community. These include our volunteers who serve on the **Planning and Zoning Commission (Chairman Dennis Schermerhorn, Diane Andrews, Noreen Costello, Denise Ingram, Earl O'Malley, Jack Yelnick); Police & Fire Board (Thomas Anselmo, Thomas Reynolds, Mario Stefanini); S.E.A.S.P.A.R. representative Joan Pieri; and our Heritage Center docents.** In addition, all who serve in some capacity on the various associations and boards throughout the Village deserve our thanks for all they do to help make our town better. We thank all of you! Now, let me share some things with you concerning the achievements of the past year.

In 2009, we were notified by our State Senator Christine Radogno and State Representative Jim Durkin that we would be receiving funding for certain projects specific to Indian Head Park as a part of the Illinois Capital Improvement Plan legislation that they sought on our behalf. Working with our staff and VBT, I had previously submitted what amounted to a laundry list of projects and estimated costs for completion for consideration as a part of the Illinois Capital Improvements Plan. This "wish list" included funding for street improvements for Ashbrook, Arrowhead Trail and others; sidewalks/bicycle trail along Wolf Road and Willow Springs Road; water main replacements, well-capping at the south entrance to Acacia. Given the condition of our State's economy, I did not make any formal announcement of these grants due to my concern that the money may not be forthcoming. However, I was contacted recently for information concerning these grants that I now believe will likely come to us through the efforts of Sen. Radogno and Rep. Durkin. Specifically, we have been approved to receive money for the following projects: Cochise Drive water main improvement (\$285,000), the well-capping (required by the IEPA) at the South entrance to Acacia (\$30,000), and for the installation of a sidewalk along Willow Springs Road from 65th Place to Joliet Road (\$80,000).

Another work in process that began some time ago that I am now happy to report to you is the inclusion on our website of links to village information that has not previously been available on-line. Our IHP website will contain links to take you to the Village's Zoning map, Comprehensive Plan, and Municipal Code. Some of this information will be available on-line soon and more will be added when ready. We also will be placing on our website a summary of the Village's yearly Financial Statement for the period ending April 30, 2010 as prepared by our auditors. This information along with the official minutes of the VBT and PZC and prior issues of Smoke Signals is available at our website: www.indian-headpark-il.gov. As time and resources permit, we plan to include more Village information on-line.

As we look to 2011, I am grateful to those of you who shared your concerns with me or voiced your thanks during

continued on page 2

Message continued from page 1

the past year. All input submitted in the spirit of cooperation is appreciated and respected. Thank you! As mayor, my focus for the coming year will be on village finances (revenue enhancement and expenditure reductions), infrastructure improvements (paving streets in Ashbrook and Arrowhead Trail top the list), maintain village services (Police, Public Works), restore the leaf-program should funding or an alternative means become available, update our website and modernize the equipment needed for that purpose. Most importantly, along with the VBT, I will strive to maintain a prudent approach to spending that is required in this difficult economy. As you know, I have reported that the current year's budget deficit is about \$125,000. This does not mean that we have to spend ourselves into that deficit and we are striving not to do so. Procedures are in place that requires all expenditures over \$100 be approved by the Administrator.

I was hopeful that with this December/January issue of the Smoke Signals, I could report to you the results of Census 2010 but, unfortunately, the information concerning our specific Village was not available when this issue went to the printer.

Finally, our Village Attorneys have again made a contribution on our behalf to the **"Make-A-Wish" Foundation of America**. As you may know, the **Make-A-Wish Foundation** helps grant the wishes of children with life-threatening medical conditions to enrich their human experience with hope, strength and joy. We are grateful to our Village Attorneys for this donation on our behalf! Thank You!!

In closing, I want to say thank you for your continued support of your VBT and me! We look forward to working diligently on your behalf in 2011. May Peace and Prosperity be yours this coming year! Happy New Year!

Respectfully,

Richard S. Andrews, mayor

Scheduled Meeting Dates

Village Board of Trustees 7:30 p.m.:

Thursday, January 13, 2011

Planning and Zoning Commission 7:30 p.m.:

Tuesday, February 1, 2011

Fire/Police Commission 7:00 p.m.:

Thursday, March 3, 2011

E-911 Board 6:30 p.m.:

Thursday, March 17, 2011

All meetings are held at the Municipal Facility at 201 Acacia Drive. All residents are welcomed!

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Smoke Signals

Newsletter Coordinator, Kathy Leach
(708) 246-7099, extension 101
kleach@indianheadpark-il.gov

Volume 43, Number 1

Circulation 2000

Smoke Signals is published by the Village of Indian Head Park to inform its residents of present activities in the village and the ever-growing plans for the future in the pursuit of better government and good citizenship.

Teepee Topics news items should be submitted to the Newsletter Coordinator at the Municipal Offices.

Full page advertisements - \$200.00, 1/2 page advertisements - \$125.00, 3 1/2" x 3 1/2" size advertisements - \$75.00, business card size advertisements - \$45.00, trading post advertisements - \$20.00 (no commercial advertisements - the advertisement will run two times at no cost, then a \$20.00 charge).

Extra copies and back issues (up to one year) of *Smoke Signals* can be obtained at the Village Hall.

Deadline date for the next issue is February 18, 2011.

www.indianheadpark-il.gov

VILLAGE OF INDIAN HEAD PARK

201 Acacia Drive, Indian Head Park, IL 60525

(708) 246-3080

www.indianheadpark-il.gov

Office Hours

Mon., Tues., Wed. and Fri 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and

Thursdays, 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Closed Saturday, Sunday and Holidays

Mayor:

Richard S. Andrews

Trustees:

Deborah A. Anselmo Carol Coleman
Brian T. Bailey Norman L. Schnauffer
Anne Bermier Matthew P. Walsh II

Village Clerk:

Joseph V. Consolo

Chief of Police/ Administrator:

Frank Alonzo, Jr.

Police Dept.

Non-Emergency 246-4534

Emergency 9-1-1

Fire Dept.

Non-Emergency 352-9229

Emergency 9-1-1

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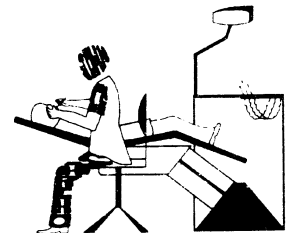
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TEEPEE TOPICS

Congratulations to the following students from Indian Head Park on their academic achievements: **Mary DeMars**, was named to the dean's list at St. Ambrose University in Davenport, Iowa. The following students were named to the honor roll at Pleasantdale Middle School: **Nicholas Piento, Srecko Stevanovic, Alexis Gutierrez, Nicole Lata, Aryanna Gill, Guinevere Nueva Espana.**

Jane Kuhn sends a special thanks to John Brannen, of Indian Head Park, who recently donated two pieces of furniture from his antique shop to the Indian Head Park Heritage Center.

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